

well (that is, if she is not an exceptional woman), for if, as is sometimes the case, as was the case for instance with both the Queen of Norway and the Crown Princess of Sweden, she has made a love match, she has the ordinary happiness that comes to the happy woman with husband and children, and in addition the ceremonial and social part would be apt to appeal to her and to be taken seriously by her. But as for the man! It would be very attractive to be a king with the power of a dictator, and the ability to wield that power, to be a Frederick the Great, for instance, or even a man like the old Kaiser William, who if not exactly a great man yet had the qualities which enabled him to use and be used by Bismarck, Moltke, and von Roon. But the ordinary king—and I speak with cordial liking of all the kings I met—has to play a part in which the dress parade is ludicrously out of proportion to the serious effort; there is a quite intolerable quantity of sack to the amount of bread. If he is a decent, straight, honorable fellow, he can set a good example—and yet if he is not, most of his subjects, including almost all the clergymen, feel obliged to be blind and to say that he is; and he can exercise a certain small influence for good on public affairs in an indirect fashion. But he can play no part such as is played by the real leaders in the public life of to-day, if he is a constitutional monarch.

Understand me. I do not mean that he fails to serve a useful purpose, just as the flag serves a useful purpose.

Only a very foolish creature will talk of the flag
as nothing
but a bit of dyed or painted bunting, because
it is a symbol
of enormous consequence in the life and
thought of the
people. Similarly, the king may serve a
purpose of enor-
mous usefulness as a symbol, and I have no
question that
for many peoples, it would be a misfortune not
to have such
a symbol, such a figurehead. I am not speaking
of the king
from the standpoint of his usefulness to the
community,
which I fully admit; I am merely saying that
from his own
standpoint, if he is a man of great energy,
force and power,
it must be well-nigh intolerable to have to
content himself